

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below:

Claims 1-34 (Cancelled).

Claims 35-76 (Cancelled).

Claims 77-105 (Cancelled).

106. (New) A method for measuring acetaldehyde present in a polymer, comprising the steps of:

extracting gaseous acetaldehyde from a polymer into a confined space;

reacting said gaseous acetaldehyde with an acetaldehyde-reactive reagent on a inert reagent carrier in said confined space;

contacting said reacted acetaldehyde-reactive reagent with a reagent solution to obtain a detectable response; and

measuring said response to obtain an acetaldehyde reading.

107. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said extracting step further includes a step of raising the temperature of said polymer.

108. (New) The method of claim 106, further including the step of agitating said reagent solution for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

109. (New) The method of claim 106, further including the step of heating said reagent solution for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

110. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said measuring step is a visual comparison of said response with a chart.

111. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said measuring step includes a photometric instrument for measuring said response.

112. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a transmission mode.

113. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a reflectance mode.

114. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said reagent solution is present in excess quantity for dissolving said reacted aldehyde-reactive reagent for forming a homogeneous solution.

115. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said confined space is an airtight container, said polymer disposed in said container.

116. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said confined space is formed by the combination of a preform and closure.

117. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said confined space is formed by the combination of a bottle and closure.

118. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer is a preform.

119. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer is a bottle.

120. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer is in pieces.

121. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein said aldehyde-reactive reagent comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of 3-methyl-2-benzothiazolinone hydrazone hydrochloride, 4-amino-3-hydrazino-5-mercaptop-1,2,4-triazole, 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole, 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalene-1-sulfohydrazide, 2-diphenylacetyl-1,3-indandione-1-hydrazone, 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole-4-nitrobenzenediazonium fluoborate, p-nitrobenzalhydrazone, 1,3-cyclohexanedione, 3,5-diaminobenzoic acid, 5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione, 2-hydroxycarbazole, dimedone and indole.

122. (New) A method for measuring acetaldehyde present in a polyester polymer, comprising the steps of:

extracting gaseous acetaldehyde from a polymer into a confined space;

reacting said gaseous acetaldehyde with an MBTH reagent disposed on an indicator in said confined space;

contacting the reacted MBTH reagent with an oxidizer solution to obtain a color response; and

measuring the color response to obtain an acetaldehyde reading.

123. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said extracting step further includes a step of raising the temperature of said polymer.

124. (New) The method of claim 122, further including the step of agitating said reagent solution for reducing the duration of said contracting step.

125. (New) The method of claim 122, further including the step of heating said reagent solution for reducing the duration of said contracting step.

126. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said measuring step is a visual comparison of said response to a chart.

127. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said measuring step is conducted with a spectrophotometer.

128. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said confined space is an airtight container, said polymer disposed within said container.

129. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said confined space is formed by the combination of a preform and closure.

130. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said confined space is formed by the combination of a bottle and closure.

131. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said polymer is a preform.

132. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said polymer is a bottle.

133. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said polymer is in pieces.

134. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said aldehyde-reactive reagent is 3-methyl-2-benzothiazolinone hydrazone hydrochloride.

135. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said indicator comprises an aldehyde-reactive reagent coated on a solid particulate carrier applied to a support strip.

136. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of ferric chloride.

137. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of potassium ferricyanide.

138. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of lead tetraacetate.

139. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of periodic acid.